

Planning celebration no easy task Combined effort puts results in 'synchronized' event

By Karen Edge

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

To the more than 11,000 people who attended the 1st Armored Division Welcome Home Celebration at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 7, the day may have appeared effortless.

Free food was in abundance. The sounds of music, DJs and large crowds echoed throughout the colossal fest tent. Spectators climbed on an M1A1 Abrams main battle tank complete with bullet holes, while others took a seat in the cockpit of a UH-60 Blackhawk, the Army's frontline utility helicopter. More than 2,400 Soldiers lined up in perfect formation representing each unit in the 1st AD that deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. High ranking government officials from the United States and Germany mingled with Soldiers, civilians and families after giving heartfelt speeches at both a memorial dedication to fallen 1st AD Soldiers and the official Welcome Home Ceremony, pass and review and parade.

A mechanical bull, a clown, rides for children, a comedian, local entertainers and headline country music band Sawyer Brown were just a few crowd pleasers.

But the one-day celebration took months of planning. For 3rd Corps Support Command Maj. Keith Carroll, action officer for the Welcome Home Ceremony, preparation began in mid-July.

Months of planning

"Celebrations like this aren't just one day events. An extensive amount of coordination and actions are necessary to move forward to the actual event. From entertainment to porta-potties, every detail had to be planned out and executed," said Carroll. U.S. Army Europe, V Corps, 3rd COSCOM, Installation Management Agency-Europe, Special Troops Battalion, 1st AD rear detachment personnel, the 104th Area Support Group and the base support battalions worked together, with USAREUR and V Corps at the top, then 3rd COSCOM, and the STB and 221st BSB working laterally, taking the brunt of the work load, Carroll said.

When it came to Soldier support, 3rd COSCOM took the lead. The 3rd COSCOM provided 300 Soldiers for the event, who set up the entertainment stage for the headline entertainers, provided security for the band, ran 38 shuttle buses within the Wiesbaden footprint, kept 48 troop-movement buses secure, provided communication channels, cell phones, radios, vehicles and equipment and much more.

"Third COSCOM had many tasks, from guarding more than 2,400 weapons to setting up a communication support center," said Maj. Pascal Moore, STB support operations officer. "Our primary job was to oversee the day's events, make sure things were running smoothly and make corrections if they weren't."

With so many organizations involved,



Photo by Karen Edge

With the use of cranes, contractors finish putting together the framework of a fest tent for the 1st Armored Division Welcome Home Ceremony a week before the event. The main tent was longer than two football fields put together.

miscommunication would have been easy. To enhance clarity among those involved, the 221st BSB Operations Section made maps of the airfield, built a three-dimensional terrain model of the airfield complete with replica fest tents and static displays, and designed badges to enhance force protection measures while ensuring staff working the ceremony had access to event sites.

"The 221st Base Support Battalion Operations Section was there to orchestrate the event and make sure all operations were synchronized, and to ensure that what the Directorate of Public Works and the Directorate of Community Activities did coincided to produce a spectacular event, deserving of the 1st Armored Division Soldiers," said Maj. Chris Wolney, 221st BSB operations officer. "We then coordinated our efforts with 3rd COSCOM to make sure all key participants were in sync."

In June force protection officials and the Military Police began the planning that would keep thousands of spectators and participants at the ceremony safe.

Getting local help

"Host nation support was vital to the ceremony and constituted a cohesive and well-prepared contingent of critical staff, ready to respond to any situation. The hard-working Soldiers of the 221st BSB Provost Marshal's Office, along with their counterparts in other BSBs, logged hundreds of hours and endured long days to ensure the

success of this high-visibility event," said Maj. Jake Jacob, 221st BSB Provost Marshal. "Vital K-9 support was needed to advocate counter-explosives measures. We had to develop a feasible traffic control plan for Wiesbaden Army Airfield and the surrounding communities, which was a daunting task critical to the safety of everyone present for the event."

"Of course we always hope nothing will go wrong, but we still have to plan for the worst. With the amount of people predicted to attend the day's events and the high-level profile of some of the distinguished visitors, we needed a lot of help," said Otis Hawes, 221st BSB force protection officer. "There were more than 90 German police officers, 50 medical assistants, three emergency doctors and 11 ambulances working hand-in-hand with the Wiesbaden Health Clinic and Military Police throughout the day. The German Bundeswehr provided 34 soldiers to assist with security."

Although a prime concern, security wasn't the only obstacle to overcome in order to pull off a welcome home ceremony fitting for the Old Ironsides warriors.

Tons of food

There were 100,000 drinks prepared, 20,000 Brötchen, 30,000 pretzels, 30,000 chicken quarters, 30,000 hamburgers, 30,000 hot dogs and enough potato salad for 40,000 people for a total of about 60 tons of food.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Staff Sgt. Robert MacLean maintains security around an entertainment stage as country and western band Sawyer Brown plays at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 7.

The main fest tent was two football fields long. Anchoring the fest tent to the tarmac was not an option, so more than 550 tons of concrete slabs were trucked on to the airfield and used to anchor the tent. There were two

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221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Halloween events

AAFES special offers

The Taunus Movie Theater in Hainerberg Shopping Center offers a costume contest Oct. 31 for youth ages 4-12. Wear a costume and receive a small popcorn during the 1 p.m. showing of "Monsters Inc.," 4 p.m. showing of "Scooby Doo II" or "Dracula" at 7 p.m. AAFES also offers a pumpkin painting contest at 2 p.m. near the Flower Shop.

Mainz-Kastel Storage Station features a three-day tent sale Oct. 29-31 and the Bose Road Show Oct. 29-31 outside the Power Zone.

Bust-a-ball paintball

Wear a costume, enjoy a fall fest and a game of paintball at the season finale of the Bust-a-Ball paintball field at Dexheim's Anderson Barracks Oct. 30-31. For more information on hours and prices contact Outdoor Recreation at mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

BOSS haunted house

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program hosts a "Fright Night" at the Victory Point Bar Oct. 30 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Wear a costume and participate in some ghoulish games. BOSS also hosts a haunted house at the Community Activity Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield Oct. 28-31. Hours are from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 28 and 31 and from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Oct. 29-30.

Dedicated worker aids families

By Cassandra Kardeke

221st Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Deployment is not easy for anyone.

As Wiesbaden units began receiving orders for deployment two years ago, the 221st Base Support Battalion initiated the Mobilization and Deployment Office, headed by Edwina Brown, at Army Community Service.

"Edwina took to the new position and ran with it, ensuring everyone received support," said Tom Ross, director of community activities.

Putting the program together from scratch was not an easy task. Brown assisted coordination of pre-deployment briefings for all units served by the 221st BSB, followed by briefings for family members and Family Readiness Group leaders to ensure all were fully aware of services, activities and organizations available during the deployment process. Brown was also instrumental in creating a deployment survival guide which was later given out to all Soldiers and their spouses who were affected by the deployment.

"Soldiers aren't the only ones affected by a deployment," said Brown. "Deployments affect family members, civilians and the entire community."

But her work didn't stop with just the pre-deployment. Brown continued to be the foundation that many FRG

leaders, community leaders and spouses depended on throughout the deployment.

"She was readily available, day or night, for any family member with a question or concern. She helped FRGs build a chain of communication among the spouses and coordinated training for anyone wishing to help others deal with the deployment, and an email chain informing families of activities and events within the community," said Sandra Keefe, BSB deputy commander. And the list of her accomplishments goes on.

Even as Soldiers began to return home, her work didn't stop.

"I just love people. I was there to see them leave and I was there to see them come home," Brown said.

Whether it was during the day, the middle of the night, the crack of dawn or a weekend, Brown was at every reunion ceremony when the Soldiers returned passing out flags and helping keep spouses and family members occupied as the anxiety built up just before troops began unloading from buses.

"It was truly a heartwarming experience seeing faces light up as the Soldiers returned. I don't think I went through one reunion ceremony without tears in my eyes," Brown said.

Planning

Continued from page 6

add-on tents, with 13 passageways from the main tent to the beer and wine tent, and 12 passageways to the food tent. Inside the main tent was a headliner stage and a local entertainment stage.

Debbie Hurley, Directorate of

Community Activities deputy director, invested countless hours making sure things ran smoothly.

"For 30 minutes of fireworks, city approval and a permit were required. There were 120 porta-potties, 12 of which were handicap-accessible, two diaper changing

trailers, in which 10 babies could be changed at any one time. There were four toilet trailers. Each trailer had three female toilets, one male toilet and three urinals," said Hurley.

"Bleachers were brought in and put together to seat 4,648 people, and there were 400 VIP seats under

the canopies between the sets of bleachers. Every vendor contracted to provide services needed access to the installation and the airfield, which required coordination with Force Protection and the PMO," Hurley said.

DPW in overdrive

John Howe, Buildings and Grounds Division chief, and his staff covered a wide spectrum of services, which included improving the entire appearance of Wiesbaden Army Airfield, manufacturing a myriad of 250 signs, and building reviewing stands.

They also did extensive grounds maintenance, improved the appearance of several housing areas and renovated the exterior of the 1st AD Headquarters building.

Judith Missmahl, chief of the Engineering Plans and Services Division, and her staff ensured all requirements were met in a timely manner.

Utilities Division chief Adrian Abeleanu and staff supplied potable water at many remote locations, provided and adjusted the power distribution network as demands required, negotiated the removal of refuse throughout the day and made sure vendors and support contractors had all the utility resources needed for cooking and refrigeration purposes and more.

Acting chief of the Fire Department Daniel Corzelius and the Fire Department made sure fire safety requirements were met.

The 221st BSB Directorate of Logistics' biggest contribution was

the transportation. There were 38 buses disbursed throughout the community from 5:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. in constant rotation between the airfield and pick-up points off post. The buses transported more than 8,900 people throughout the day.

American Forces Network-Hessen kept the general public informed leading up to and throughout the day, broadcasting accurate and timely information from 5 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. AFN also broadcast the Sawyer Brown concert in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Everyone involved, from the planning to execution of the 1st Armored Division Welcome Home Ceremony Oct. 7 worked exceptionally hard, and the end result was a wonderful day to be had by all," said 221st Base Support Battalion commander Lt. Col. Christopher Franks. "The 3rd COSCOM, the 221st BSB, and the Soldiers and civilians who worked behind the scenes, deserve great accolades," Franks said.

"I have always considered it to be an honor to be a Soldier, and the Welcome Home Ceremony reinforced that. I would like to thank everyone in the COSCOM and 221st BSB who worked so hard to make our welcome home memorable. Iron Soldiers are fortunate to have you all on our team," said Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st AD commander.

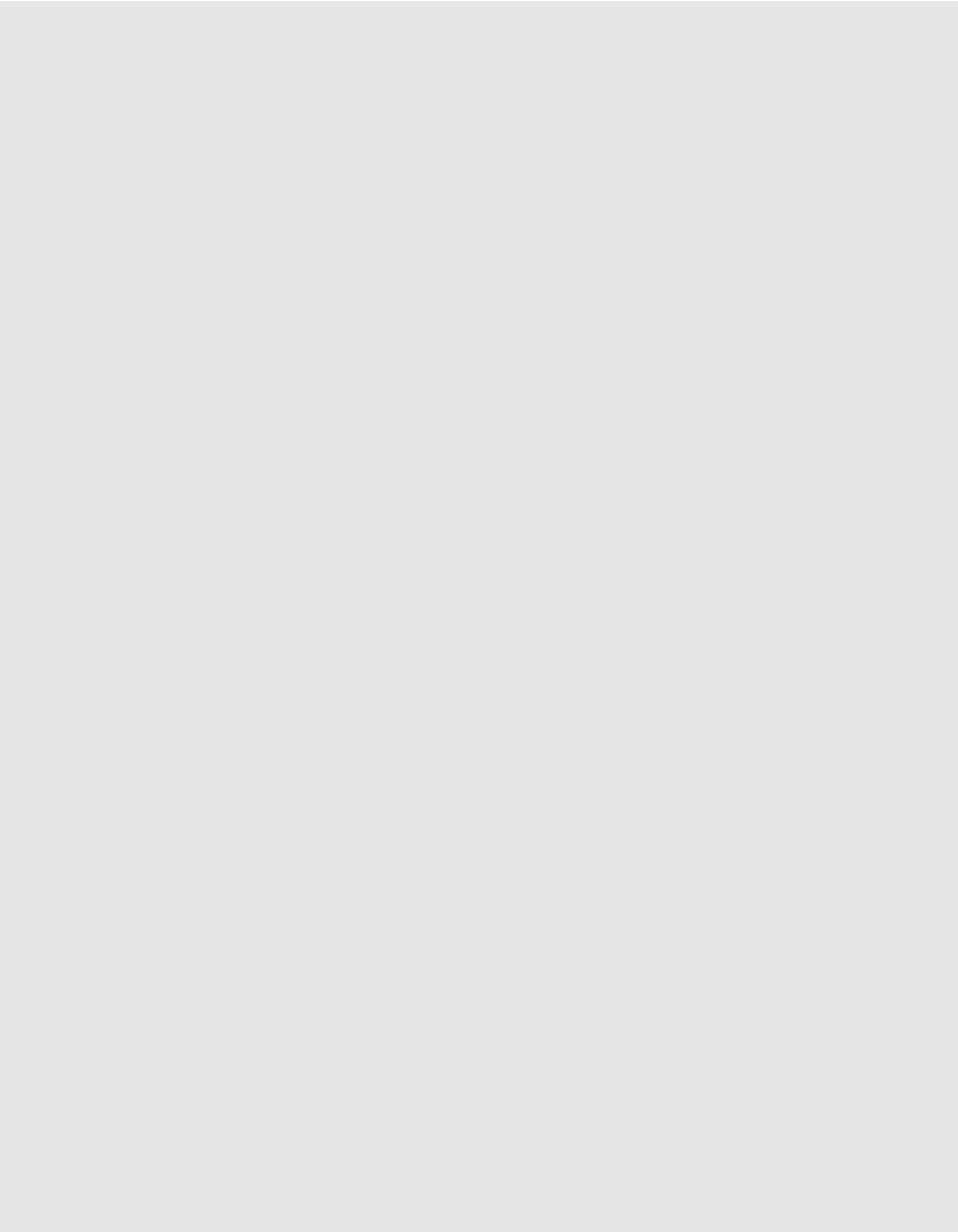
"If I had to rate the success of the day on a scale of one to 10, I'd give it a 12," Franks said.



Photo courtesy of 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion

On guard in Afghanistan

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric Swanberg, 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), keeps a close watch at an unsecured landing zone in an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. The company deployed to Afghanistan several months ago to provide medical evacuation support.



221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Scout sign-up

Cub Scout Pack 13 holds an Open House Oct. 26 at Army Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing. Boys in first through fifth grade are eligible to join. For more information call civ (0611) 205 1859.

High school play

The Gen. H.H. Arnold High School Thespian Society's production of "Barefoot in the Park" will be on stage at 7 p.m. Oct. 28 and 29 in the school's auditorium. The production is open to the community.

PTA fundraiser

Aukamm Elementary School Parent Teacher Association will hold a Tricky Tray Raffle fundraiser and general membership meeting Oct. 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the school's multi-purpose room. Raffle baskets will be on display at the school Oct. 26.

Position open

Army Community Service seeks a volunteer program manager. Duties include maintaining files, recording hours and ensuring all volunteers receive an orientation. For more information call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

The American Arms Hotel is hiring front desk clerks and custodial workers for housekeeping.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Apply at the Nonappropriated Fund Personnel Office in Building 1020 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For more information call mil 338-7883 or civ (0611) 343 667.

Story Time at library

The Wiesbaden community library holds Story Time every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. Targeted for pre-school age children, the program includes listening to a story and a crafts time. Upcoming themes are Ghosts, Oct. 27; Starry Nights, Nov. 3; Children's Books, Nov. 10; Thanksgiving, Nov. 17 and Birthdays, Nov. 24.

Chess exhibition Oct. 28-30

Team 221st libraries host a chess exhibition Oct. 28-30. Three boards will be set up for free play and two boards for a basic beginner class. The exhibitions will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Dexheim Library, Oct. 29 at the McCully Barracks Library and Oct. 30 at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library.

10K fun run/walk

The Wiesbaden Community Counseling Center hosts a 10K walk Oct. 30 at the Tony Bass Fitness Center in honor of Red Ribbon Week. Registration will

be held from 9:30-10:45 a.m., and the walk will begin at 11 a.m. T-shirts will be given out to the first 50 entrants.

Red Cross classes

Babysitters training, Healthy Pregnancy, CPR and volunteer orientations are held through the Wiesbaden Red Cross. To find out and sign up for upcoming classes call mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760.

Playgroup at chapel

Little Lambs prayer and playgroup is held from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at the Hainerberg Chapel. A parent must remain with the child during the playtime and bring a snack or drink for their toddler. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

Volunteers needed

The United Services Organization seeks volunteers to be Santa's helpers during photo sessions in December. People are needed as Santa, Mrs. Claus, cashier, photographer and photo mounter. To volunteer call mil 337-5591 or civ (0611) 705-5591.

OCS board to convene Nov. 23-24

The 221st Base Support Battalion will conduct an Officer Candidate School selection board Nov. 23 and 24 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. For location, times and packet submission requirements call Harold Griffin, 221st BSB adjutant, at mil 337-7068 or civ (0611) 705-7068.

Night out for all

The Wiesbaden Community Activity Center hosts Saturday Night Fever for all ages Nov. 13. Teen Time will be held from 4-7:30 p.m. with music, games, dance and Playstation contests. The party continues from 8 p.m. to midnight for adults with a DJ, open mic con-

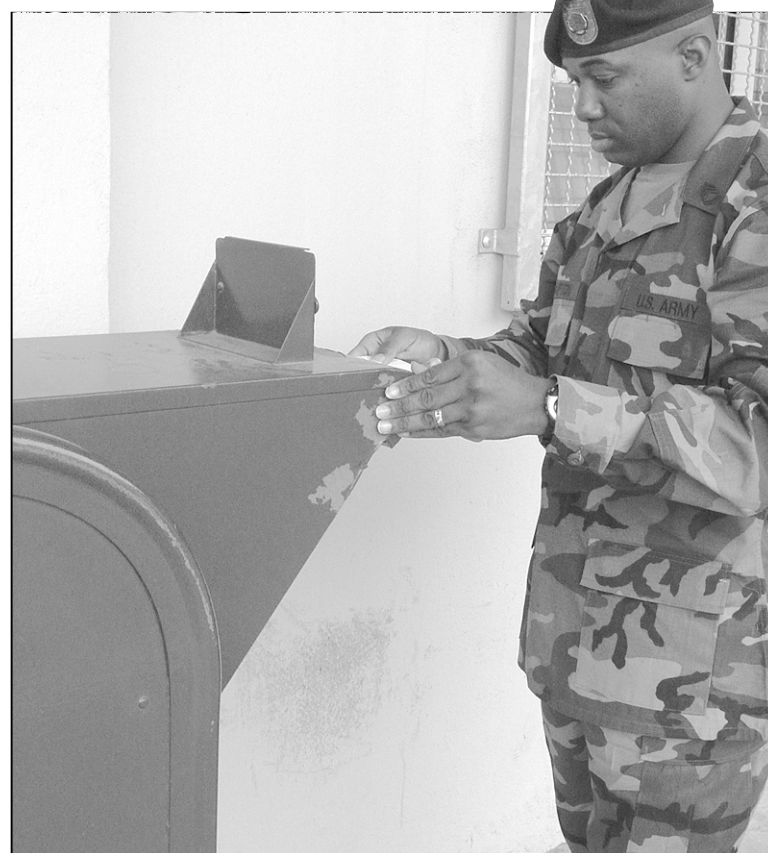


Photo by Karen Edge

Each vote counts

Sgt. 1st Class Tony Hampton, 221st Base Support Battalion office of the chaplain, mails in his absentee ballot at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield post office Oct. 15. Hampton, who is a registered voter in Louisiana, said after seeing the struggle people in Afghanistan are going through for the right to vote, and the fighting the United States is doing in Iraq to ensure a free Iraq, he felt it was his duty to uphold his privilege, which he sees as his right to vote.

test and Apollo-style comedy. Anyone wishing to perform must register in advance. Call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750 for more information.

AA meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Community Counseling Center in Building 1526 every Wednesday at 7 p.m. For information on other AA meetings call the Army Substance Abuse Program coordinator at mil 337-1710 or civ (0611) 705-1710.

Sgt. Morales Club

The Sgt. Morales Club meets the first Wednesday of the month in Room 210 of the Welcome Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield at 2 p.m. All Sgt. Morales and Sgt. Audie Murphy inductees are welcome to attend. For more information call civ (0160) 9211 2266.

Emergency care providers needed

Army Community Service seeks emergency placement and respite care providers. Emergency placement provides interim care for children removed from a home because of abuse, neglect or other family emergencies. Respite care provides a temporary rest period for family members responsible for regular care of children with disabilities. Anyone interested in volunteering their home and time to provide care should call mil 337-5034 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Jewish services

Kabbalat shabbat is conducted Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel. Judaism 101 classes will be held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. For more information call mil 337-1570 or civ (0611) 705-1570.

222nd BSB — Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Happenings

Halloween volksmarch

The Baumholder Bahnbrechers Volksmarching Club sponsors a volksmarch on Halloween weekend, Oct. 30-31 with start times from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. All participants must be done walking by 5 p.m. The start and finish is at Baumholder's Bruhl Halle.

Distances include 5, 10 and 20 kilometer routes. The 5 and 10 kilometer routes are stroller friendly.

Registration fee is €1.50 and includes an IVV stamp. There is no award this year. Registration is available before the march, but large groups that wish to register in advance may do so by paying start fees at Kreissparkasse Baumholder. For details call Charles A. Peterson at civ (06782) 109-472, or send an email to MrIVV@msn.com.

Pets must be kept on a leash while walking. Prepaid start cards not picked up are void, as registration fee is not refundable. Discarding trash or refuse along the route is prohibited and smoking in the forest is strictly forbidden. Remember that violators are subject to fines. The march will be conducted regardless of weather conditions.

Players, coaches

The **womens' community level basketball** league needs players. Contact the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176 for details. **Wrestling and boxing** coaches are needed. Call the Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176 for details.

Range controllers

The Baumholder Liaison Detachment (Range Control) seeks noncommissioned officers to join the detachment. Soldiers must be in the grade of E-6, branch qualified, able to speak, understand and read German and must hold a 19K or 11 series Military Occupational Specialty. Call mil 485-6723.

Training Center closing Dec. 7-9

The 7th Army Training Command Regional Training Support Center-Baumholder Visual Information Support Branch will be closed for inventory Dec. 7-9. The photo studio and illustrator section will be open.

BCSC luncheon

The Baumholder Community Service Club holds its next luncheon Nov. 17 at the Rheinlander Club. The theme is Crystal Bingo, and only members of the BCSC are invited to the luncheon. Memberships

may be purchased at the door for \$15. Make luncheon and child care reservations by calling civ (06782) 887 135 or send an email to reservebcsc@yahoo.com.

Youth Services October events

☛ Oct. 29, Halloween dance at the Teen Cafe for ninth- through 12th-grade students from 7-11 p.m.

☛ Oct. 30, masquerade ball at the Landstuhl Teen Center for ninth- through 12th-grade students from 7-11 p.m.

☛ Oct. 30, lock-in at the Underground for sixth- through eighth-grade students from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

All participants must be registered with CYS and a signed permission slip must be turned in one week before each trip or event.

For more information contact your local youth center or Youth Services at mil 485-7276.

Volunteer to help

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youth and adults, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting or recreational events. For more information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder's youth website on the web at www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm.

Professional help

Professional counselors are here to provide support and guidance. If you are dealing with conflict, worry or difficulty, in or outside the home, take the time to talk to someone about it. Confidential family/life coaches can meet with you, when and where you are most comfortable. Call Army Community Service at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)-8188 to schedule a meeting.

Rolling Hills Athletic Club

- ◆ Step aerobics
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
7-8 p.m.
- ◆ Step/toning aerobics
Tuesday and Thursday
9:15-10:15 a.m.
- ◆ Water aerobics
Tuesday and Thursday
9:15-10:15 a.m./6:30-7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Ballet (CYS)
Monday-Thursday
3:30-5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Family dollar nights
Fridays
- ◆ Swimming pool
5-8 p.m.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Lincoln's first goal

Lincoln Jones, number 17, boots his first goal into the net during the first coed soccer game for 5- and 6-year-olds. Seven teams in this age bracket play a total of eight games for fun; scores are not kept. Still, as Jones could tell you, part of the fun is getting the ball in the goal.

Schools ready for Super Six

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Baumholder is ready to host the annual European Super Six high school football championship Nov. 6 on Minick Field.

This will be the second year Baumholder hosts the Super Bowl of high school football in Europe. The top six high school football teams in Europe clash for a shot at the championship title, offering fans a full day of gridiron action.

By combining Division I, II and III games in a single large event, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe officials hope to create a big game atmosphere that will be a rewarding experience for athletes, coaches and parents.

The day begins with Division III finalists playing at 1 p.m. Division II plays at 4 p.m. and Division I finalists face off at 7 p.m.

Teams fall under Divisions I, II, or III depending on the school enrollment. Being a school with a small number of students, Baumholder falls under Division III.

The semifinals will be played Oct. 30. "We're going to have quite an influx of people in the community the day before, as at least 400 players will be arriving," said Gene Winfree, 222nd Base Support Battalion schools officer.

"Given that the Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division have returned from their 15-month deployment, we are expecting twice the fan participation, if not more, than last year," he said. The event drew more than 2,000 spectators last year.

Participation by NFL officials and Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders are also in the works.

"Baumholder was chosen primarily because of the outstanding facility and force protection that it offers," said Dom Calabria,

Baumholder American High School principal.

Like last year security and safety will receive top priority. There will be security checks upon entrance to the field. Coolers, alcohol and glass bottles will not be permitted in the stands. "Our Pond's guards personnel will search packages and backpacks at the entrance to the field," said Bianca Bowen, 222nd BSBS-2.

Food and beverages will be available at the game, so guests need not go hungry or thirsty throughout the day. To help feed the influx of people the Strike Zone snack bar in the Strikers Bowling Center will be available for fans throughout the day. Guests can also enjoy a game or two of bowling while waiting for the next game to start on Minick Field. The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will also have its food court facilities available throughout the championships.

Education update

Baumholder's Adult Education Program offers Conversational German I and Conversational German II. Registration fee is \$40. Call Bill Badger at mil 485-8891 for more information.

The University of Maryland is now registering for the upcoming college term at Baumholder. A variety of courses are being offered including Human Anatomy and

Physiology I, Introduction to Philosophy, Personality Theories and Marketing Principles.

Call Deirdre Martin or Stacie Welsh at mil 485-6178 for more information.

Central Texas College is registering for the following classes: Introduction to Automotive Technology, Crime in America, Child Abuse, Prevention and Investiga-

tion, and Emergency Medical Technician-Basic. Register now at the Baumholder Education Center.

The Electronic Army University (eArmyU) is now available to active-duty Soldiers in Baumholder. Briefings on the program are held at the Baumholder Education Center each Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

Call mil 485-6487 for more information.

Students awarded Freedom scholarships



Kadeja Gaines



Ryan Scott Morton

Ryan Scott Morton and Kadeja Gaines have each been awarded \$1,000 Presidential Freedom Scholarships from the Corporation for National and Community Service and Boys and Girls Clubs of America. They were honored for their outstanding commitment to public service.

"The Presidential Freedom Scholarships are designed to help the communities recognize the outstanding service-related achievements of their young people, while encouraging others to get involved in service and volunteering," said David Eisner of the Corporation for

National and Community Service. "Community service is an integral part of what it means to be an American citizen, and the Presidential Freedom Scholarship program is an excellent way to recognize young adults who are exercising their duty with distinction. We are proud to be able to offer these scholarships, which build community partnerships."

Ryan, the son of Sgt. 1st Class Scott Morton, 47th Forward Support Battalion, and Melissa Schaffner of Baumholder's Army Community Service, is a freshman at North Georgia College and State

University.

Kadeja, the daughter of Air Force Master Sgt. Dennis Gaines, Air Force North, and Teresa Gaines, formerly of Baumholder ACS, moved with her family to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The corporation for National and Community Service provides recipients with a \$500 scholarship which is paired with another scholarship of \$500 or more from a local Boys and Girls Club. More than 31,000 scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception.

Getting to know the As, Boos and Cs of Halloween

By LeAnne MacAllister

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Celtic festival of Samhain was celebrated on Nov. 1, as a precursor to Halloween, starting around the 1st century B.C. The event marked the end of the Celtic calendar year and the beginning of winter.

The Celts believed the border between the worlds of the living and the dead was blurred on Samhain's Eve.

The celebration of Samhain began on Oct. 31 with bonfires and sacrifices to their deities. Celts wore costumes, attempted to tell each other's fortunes and re-lit hearth fires for protection.

By the 1st century A.D., Romans moved into Celtic territories of northern France, Great Britain and Ireland. Eventually two Roman festivals were combined with Samhain — Feralia, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead, and Pomona Day, in honor of the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. Pomona, represented by an apple, is often associated with the tradition of bobbing for apples.

In the seventh century Pope Boniface IV declared Nov. 1 as the church-sanctioned holiday of All Saints' Day to honor saints and martyrs. Eventually the day was also called Allhallows or Allhallowmas, which comes from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day. The night before was known as Allhallows Eve which eventually became Halloween.

Around 1000 A.D. the Catholic church designated Nov. 2 as All Souls' Day to honor the dead. The celebration

incorporated the other customs such as bonfires, parades and costumes — including those of saints, angels and demons — and evolved into Hollowmas.

European immigrants brought Halloween customs with them to the United States. Although not celebrated much in the northeastern United States because of religious differences, Halloween was common in Maryland and the southern states. European ethnic groups, along with Native Americans, interwove their cultural practices, and a distinct American Halloween tradition emerged.

The first celebrations were public events celebrating harvest season. Communities came together to tell ghost stories and fortunes, to sing and dance. The association between mischief-making and Halloween evolved at this time.

American national recognition of the holiday came in the late 1800s with the influx of Irish immigrants who fled from the potato famine. Based in an Irish and English tradition, these new Americans began to go door to door in costumes asking for money or food, including "soul cakes," a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition.

The custom of jack-o-lanterns was also imported from Irish folklore. A famous tale tells the story of a man named Jack tricking Satan into climbing a tree. He marked the tree with a cross so the devil couldn't come down. Jack made Satan promise he would never tempt him again before allowing him to leave the tree. Jack's antics got him banned from Heaven, but Hell wouldn't take him either. Stuck in the

middle, he was given a light in a hollowed turnip to survive the darkness. Americans replaced the turnip with the more plentiful pumpkins to make their jack-o-lanterns.

The 20th century trend to remove anything grotesque or spiritual from the celebrations, paired with the push toward community and neighborly parties for children and adults, changed Halloween into the celebration observed today. Though some of the superstitions remain, the religious undertones for the most part have been erased. It is now America's second largest commercial holiday with an estimated \$6.9 billion spent annually.

Now the holiday is even celebrated among the German population. In Baumholder, German residents have seen a rise in the celebration in the last 15 years with some children even going door to door in quest of sweets on Halloween.

Halloween in and around Baumholder

Various organizations have come together to provide the Baumholder military community options in celebrating Halloween.

- ✂ Halloween Fun at Kusel Pool: Friday, Oct. 29.
- ✂ Child and Youth Services Halloween Carnival: Saturday, Oct. 30 — 1-4 p.m. Rheinlander Convention Center.
- ✂ Teen Masquerade Ball: Saturday, Oct. 30 — 7-11 p.m. Landstuhl Teen Center.
- ✂ Warner Brothers Halloween Trip: Saturday, Oct. 30 — call Outdoor Recreation at mil 485-6115 for more information.
- ✂ Post Trick or Treat hours: Saturday, Oct. 30 — 5-7 p.m.
- ✂ City of Baumholder Volksmarch: Oct. 30 and 31.

Half million dollar fixup

State of the art playground opens at Wetzel CDC

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The Wetzel Child Development Center playground officially opens Oct. 28 after a \$571,000 fixup.

The old playground, constructed mostly of wood, had been in place since the center was built some 15 years ago. "With all the rain and snow that we get here, the playground eventually began to rot and became unusable," said Jacqueline Cruz, Wetzel CDC director.

Wooden shades, swings and benches were removed from the infant playground. The same items plus a playhouse, benches and sand box were also removed from the toddler playground. The preschool/kindergarten playground saw the removal of wooden shades, swings, playhouse, climbing apparatus, benches and sandbox.

During the renovation Wetzel CDC patrons and employees took their play periods on the road. "We partnered with and walked to Wetzel Elementary School, Wetzel School-Age Services and Rolling Hills

Campground to use their play facilities," said Cruz.

The playground is now equipped with safe, brand new equipment in all three areas.

Additions to the infant playground include the infant/toddler activity center which includes a custom mirror, beads, peek-a-boo panel, custom sound cylinder, custom color panel, shape spinner and bubble. Also added to the infant playground were a portable play tunnel, kid stackers, walk through tunnel, single post canopy shade, trash can and administrative cabinets.

The toddler playground has numerous additions including a canopy shade, water table, in-ground spigot, swing, sand house trek deck, turning circle/pole, arch bridge, storage bench, splash counter, art easel, fun tables, toddler structure, storage shed, trash can and administrative cabinets.

The preschool/kindergarten playground is also equipped with new play things including a new gas pump panel and sign, trike arch bridge, trike parking sign, bongo panel, art/picnic tables, village facade, trike path, flat bridge, in-

ground water spigot, playhouse, talk tube system, water table trough, sand house, no trikes sign, art easel, bridge with vertical picket rails, swings, weather station, admin cabinets, trash can, and storage shed.

The project was given a thorough inspection by officials from the Army Corps of Engineers and other organizations giving the renovated facility the green light for opening.

"We are delighted that we now have safe, state-of-the-art play equipment for the children," said Cruz.

Wounded Soldiers honored in battalion formation

By Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public
Affairs Office

Three Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, wounded while serving in Iraq, were honored Oct. 6 during a battalion formation near Baumholder’s Fallen Soldier Memorial.

Sgt. 1st Class Protray D. Woods and Staff Sgt. Hilbert E. Ceasar of Battery C, 4-27th FA, were on patrol southwest of Baghdad on April 18 when a remotely operated Improvised Explosive Device detonated next to their howitzer. Woods, who lost his right arm as a result of the incident, was promoted to sergeant first class during the ceremony.

Ceasar was also seriously injured and is undergoing treatment for his injuries.

On May 14 the camp where Spc. Patrick C. Wickens was assigned came under attack. Wickens, a member of Service Battery, 4-27th FA, received leg injuries when a mortar round exploded near him.

After both incidents members of the 31st Combat Hospital responded immediately to treat the injured. “The excellent treatment they received on the scene and thereafter from the 31st CHS is probably the reason all three are alive today,” said Capt. Joey Errington, 4-27th FA battalion S-1.

“This is a very special day for us because



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava

Sgt. 1st Class Protray D. Woods receives a set of new chevrons from 1st Sgt. Christopher Hanson of Battery D, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment. Hanson is a former member of 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, and worked with “Gunny” Woods.

we’re here to honor three of our great Soldiers who are recovering from serious injuries they suffered while serving in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Brian McKiernan, 4-27th FA commander.

As Woods’ mother and sister listened, McKiernan gave his account of both inci-

dents and how they impacted him personally.

“There are images that I will carry with me forever after our experiences in Iraq. One of these images is of Sgt. 1st Class Woods and Staff Sgt. Ceasar shortly after the accident,” said McKiernan. “As I approached the back

of their vehicle and I saw our medics tending to their needs, I was struck by what I saw. And I would not realize the full extent of their needs for some time because I saw two sergeants whose only concern was for the welfare of their Soldiers — two sergeants who insisted on trying to get up and go to the aid of their fallen Soldiers without any regard to their own injuries.

“The other image that stays in my mind is when Command Sgt. Maj. Kelly and I visited the combat support hospital shortly after Spc. Wickens was injured. We arrived at the trauma room as he was being prepared for surgery. As we approached his bedside he looked up at the sergeant major and me and he said ‘Sir, I’m sorry, sergeant major, I’m sorry,’ as if somehow he’d screwed up,” said McKiernan. “And then the next words out of his mouth were, ‘Is Spc. Wilcox okay?’ These men were more concerned about their comrades than their own fate. These images will stay with me forever because they are emblematic of the quality and the character of our men and women in uniform. They are selfless, committed, courageous and compassionate. They represent what is absolutely the best about our great nation. I am humbled by their exploits every day.”

The ceremony ended with a resounding “Iron Thunder” cry from all assembled.

Phantom Regiment brings history to life

**Story and photos
by LeAnne MacAllister**
*222nd Base Support Battalion Public
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Sixty years ago 1st Armored Division Soldiers assembled on the Italian front to break the Gothic Line near the small town of Castellaccio, Italy. World War II was being fought in many countries on multiple continents, though Italy's campaign was not in the historical limelight.

Realizing that it may be extremely difficult for modern warriors to conceive of the challenges faced by their World War II compatriots, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hall, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, decided to re-create the drama of the 1944 battle. Upon returning from Iraq he invited members of the Baumholder community to participate in a hands-on demonstration.

The Phantom Regiment, a private organization recognized by U.S. Army Europe and led locally by Hall, set out to bring the historical military drama to life Oct. 8-10 at Baumholder's Military Police Field.

American and German historical clubs were invited to take part with groups traveling from all over Germany to attend. In one case, a German father and his two sons made the eight hour journey from Leipzig to participate.

"I'm here because there isn't another event like this in Germany. Usually they're in Holland, Belgium or France," said Jens Termath, an avid World War II paraphernalia collector. "It's good to see one here."

Karl Kleine, age 71, from Waldorf, said he was also appreciative of the endeavor. Kleine, a retired German soldier, was 12 years old when World War II ended. He worked for the U.S.

exchange service for many years and has been collecting World War II items for over 40 years. Dressed as a member of the Allied forces, Kleine was eager to share his stories about German-American relations since the war.

The 2004 re-enactment of the defense of Castellaccio was the first event of this magnitude held in Baumholder. Americans and Germans, Soldiers, history buffs and collectors all came together to make it possible.

"The idea of living history is to create a museum without glass. The public can come through and see the equipment used back then, see how the Soldiers lived and gain a better understanding," said Hall.

Beginning in June of 1944, 45 1st AD units rotated between rest and front-line duty.

Because of terrain restrictions, many of the tankers parked their vehicles and defended the line as infantrymen. Hall aimed to make this depiction as accurate as possible.

A Sherman tank, usually housed in front of the 222nd Base Support Battalion Headquarters and the only operational tank of its kind in USAREUR, was driven to the re-enactment site. It was parked along the edges of the battlefield next to the Allied camp. It gave the entire event an even more realistic appearance and served as an attraction for visitors.

Other World War II-

era vehicles and machines were brought out by collectors and re-enactors. A 1942 German Kubelwagon, similar to an American Jeep, was used at one of the Axis campsites. Other military vehicles, such as the Allied M-1943 command post, were not originally intended to be used as camping vehicles, but were turned into shelter from the rain for the duration of the three-day camp.

The weekend weather did not deter the participants from partaking in the re-enactment, but it altered some of the plans.

Olaf Braemer, a retired German army reserve member who

lives near Cologne, said, "I tried to sleep in the foxhole I spent all afternoon digging, but it was too uncomfortable and cold. It's hard to imagine what they went through."

"When people come see this I want them to see that the Germans and the Italians who fought were just like us; all soldiers were cold, hungry and not necessarily understanding their cause for the fight," said Hall.

"But they were doing their best for their country just as we were—they were working to hold their line, and we were doing our best to break through—even though the spotlight wasn't on the Soldiers fighting in Italy."

Hall said he hoped 1st AD Soldiers gained an awareness of their history and understanding of the meaning behind the streamers they carry.



Christian Gorgs, a German member of the Living History group and Allied re-enactor, takes his turn on duty in a foxhole dug by the participants for the battle re-enactment.



Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Hall of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, leaves tent city behind him to staff the M-1943 Command Post used by the Allied forces in the World War II Italian Campaign. Photo left: Pfc. Derrall Escobar and Spc. Johnathan Parker of the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, load an M-53 high explosive round into a M-1 81mm mortar.